

VZCZCXYZ0012
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DE RUEHLO #1806 2181534
ZNR UUUUU ZZH (CCY AD99C615 MSI3451-695)
P 061534Z AUG 09
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3085
INFO RUEHKU/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 0317
RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY MANAMA 0171
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0722
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

UNCLAS LONDON 001806

SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: UK TO DECIDE ON ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE
IN THE FALL

REF: SECSTATE 080039

¶1. (SBU) Econoff delivered the letter from Secretary Clinton on budget support for the Palestinian Authority to Alice Mann, Deputy Head (London), Palestinian Program at the Department for International Development on 5 August. She told Econoff that they were "delighted by the U.S. contribution," and plan to send a letter within the next couple of weeks welcoming the U.S. action, but will not have a specific pledge at that time. She noted that HMG has provided about \$32 million (GBP 18.5 million) in budget assistance this calendar year. While the British Government is facing budget constraints, she said they hoped to provide additional funding, but no decision would be made until at least September. Mann added that she doubts the UK will reach the \$100 million level this year, but assistance could possibly exceed \$50 million.

¶2. (SBU) Mann told Econoff that she was pleased to see the U.S. reaching out to other countries for support. She noted that Prime Minister Brown and Development Secretary Douglas Alexander have been lobbying other countries, particularly the Saudis, and feel that other regional players, such as Bahrain and Kuwait, have not "stepped up to the plate." Mann added that she understood the European Commission also felt that it had been "left to pick up the bill," and other regional countries in particular should do more.

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LeBaron